

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 27, 2022

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken:

Recent reports that the U.S. Department of State (DOS) funded drag theater performances in Ecuador raise serious questions about the actions of your Department and your failure to promote America's interests abroad.

The State Department recently awarded a \$20,600 grant to the Centro Ecuatoriano Norteamericano de Cuenca to "host 3 workshops, 12 drag theater performances, and produce a 2 minute documentary."¹ According to information available on USASpending.gov, the objective of your Department's Public Diplomacy Programs are "To support the achievement of U.S. foreign policy goals and objectives, advance national interests, and enhance national security by informing and influencing foreign publics and by expanding and strengthening the relationship between the people and the government of the United States and the citizens of the rest of the world."²

Promoting the radical Left's woke ideology is not an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and promoting drag does not relate in any way to the objective above. Instead of funding drag theater programs your Department should focus its limited resources on advancing America's national interests, not the Left's agenda.

We ask that you answer the following questions and provide the following documents and information:

1. Under what statutory authority were the funds provided?
2. How many grants has DOS provided for drag theater performances or similar activities since January 20, 2021? How much money was awarded for each grant award?
3. Please provide a list of all drag theater performances or similar activities funded in total or in part by DOS since January 20, 2021.
4. What foreign policy goals and objectives do drag theater performances achieve?
5. What national interests are advanced by drag theater performances?

¹ USASpending.gov, Award Profile Grant Summary, https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_SEC30022GR0006_1900 (last visited on Oct. 27, 2022)

² *Id.*

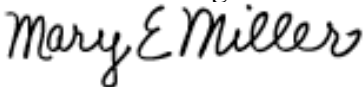
6. What national interest is served by these types of programs?
7. How do drag theater performances enhance U.S. national security?
8. Please provide all emails, guidance documents, or other materials regarding the funding of drag theater performance.

We ask that you provide this information as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 11, 2022. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Brian Mast
Member of Congress



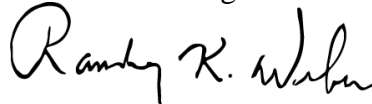
Lisa McClain
Member of Congress



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